GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:570
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2005
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the rights and duties of Press Council of India with regard to conduct of inquiries into the credibility and disputes arising out of the news-reports appearing in the newspapers of the country;

(b) the number of complaints received by the Press Council of India in respect of the National Dailies during each of the last three years and current year so far; and

(c) the action taken by Press Council of India thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.570 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.5.2005

(a) The Press Council of India has been established for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press; and maintaining and improving the standards of the newspapers in India.

Under Section 14(1) of Press Council Act, 1978, where, on receipt of a complaint made to it or otherwise, the Council has reason to believe that a newspaper or news agency has offended against the standards of journalistic ethics or public taste or that an editor or a working journalist has committed any professional misconduct, the Council conducts hearing into the complaints through its inquiry committees and after written and oral submission of the parties, the inquiry committees make recommendations in the matters to the full Council for action. If the Council is satisfied that it is necessary so to do, it may for reasons to be recorded in writing warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist as the case may be. For the purpose of performing its functions, the Council have powers to summon and enforce attendance; inspect documents; receive evidence on affidavits; requisition records; undertake relevant studies and to do any other act which may be incidental or conducive to the discharge of duties.

(b): Complaints against Press :
Number of cases filed year-wise:

2001-2002	-	860
2002-2003	-	801
2003-2004	-	660
2004-2005	-	660
Total:	-	2981

(c) Total disposal:

Total Number of cases adjudicated between 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2005 504

Total Number of cases disposed of by way of dismissal at preliminary stage between 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2005 2047

Total 2551